

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /090 W  
-----113481 281253Z /43

R 281205Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0158  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 12387

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, BQG  
SUBJECT: USE OF "BERLIN (GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)"  
IN UN PRESS RELEASE

REFS: (A) 74 USUN 2134; (B) 74 USBER 997; (C) 74  
STATE 130391; (D) 75 STATE 150328; (E) 73  
USUN 5677 (ALL NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY

THE FRG REP IN THE BONN GROUP HAS INFORMED US THAT A  
RECENT UN PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING THE APARTHEID  
COMMITTEE STATES THAT A PRIOR MEETING WAS HELD IN  
"BERLIN (GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)." THE FRG WOULD  
LIKE FOR THE ALLIED MISSIONS TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP  
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WITH THE UN PRESS OFFICE, IN THE HOPE OF PREVENTING  
REPETITION OF SUCH INCORRECT USAGE. WHILE WE ARE NOT  
CONVINCED OF THE WISDOM OF THIS COURSE, THERE IS  
SOME MERIT IN FACING THE PROBLEM NOW RATHER THAN WHEN  
IT IS REPEATED IN OFFICIAL UN DOCUMENTS. ACTION  
REQUESTED: USUN'S VIEWS AND DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.

END SUMMARY

1. THE FRG REP IN THE BONN GROUP (HENZE) HAS BROUGHT TO THE ALLIES' ATTENTION A UNITED NATIONS PRESS RELEASE (GA/AP/6851 OF 9 JUNE 1977), ENTITLED "WORLD CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID TO BE HELD IN LAGOS, NIGERIA, 22-26 AUGUST." THE ANNOUNCEMENT STATES THAT, IN 1974, "MEETINGS WERE HELD IN DUBLIN, ROME, BERLIN (GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC) AND GENEVA." IN THE BONN GROUP MEETING OF JULY 5, HENZE (SUPPORTED BY FRG BONN GROUP LEGAL ADVISER DUISBERG AND VON ARNIM) SAID THAT SINCE THE FRG HAS NO COMPETENCE WITH RESPECT TO EAST BERLIN, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE ALLIES SHOULD POINT OUT TO THE SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESS MATTERS THAT THE REFERENCE TO EAST BERLIN AS PART OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IS CONTRARY TO THE ALLIED POSITION. THE FRG DELEGATION SAID THAT THEY APPRECIATE THAT THE PRESS RELEASE COULD NOT NOW BE RETRACTED BUT THAT WE SHOULD SEEK TO ENSURE THAT SUCH A DESIGNATION WOULD NOT BE USED IN LAGOS. IF IT WERE, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO ISSUE A DISCLAIMER.

2. IN A PROLONGED DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER ON JULY 5 AND AGAIN ON JULY 12, BOTH THE UK AND US REPS SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE BEST TYPE OF CASE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH TO ATTEMPT TO ARGUE OUR POSITION. WE ARGUED THAT THE MATTER IS RELATIVELY MINOR, THE PRESS RELEASE IS BY ITS TERMS AN UNOFFICIAL DOCUMENT, AND APARTHEID IS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ISSUE. IT WOULD PROBABLY ACHIEVE LITTLE SUPPORT FOR OUR BERLIN POSITION AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IF THEY WERE TO LEARN THAT WE HAD MADE A FUSS ABOUT THIS MATTER WHEN, IN THEIR VIEW, WE SHOULD HAVE SPENT OUR TIME CONCERNING OURSELVES WITH THE ANTI-APARTHEID CAMPAIGN. UK LEGAL ADVISER (CHAMBERLAIN) ECHOED AN OPINION RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY LONDON THAT THE NUMBER OF TIMES WE RESPOND TO EVEN RELATIVELY MINOR SOVIET OR GDR PROTESTS AND RESERVATIONS TENDS TO DEBASE THE CURRENCY OF OUR RESPONSES AND AMOUNTS TO OVERKILL. WE ALSO NOTED THAT SOME CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN US CIRCLES THAT THE BONN GROUP SPENDS AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF TIME ON RESPONDING TO PROTESTS. WE SUGGESTED THAT ASSUMING THE OFFENSIVE IN THIS RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT MATTER WOULD PROBABLY UNLEASH A NEW ROUND OF PROTESTS AND RESPONSES TO PROTESTS.

3. THE GERMANS WERE UNYIELDING, CALLING IT A

MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND SAYING THE ALLIES AND THE FRG  
SHOULD SOMETIMES TAKE THE OFFENSIVE. THEY SAID THAT

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /090 W

-----113612 281251Z /43

R 281205Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0159

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 12387

ALL THEY ARE SEEKING IS FOR OFFICIALS FROM ALLIED  
UN MISSIONS TO MAKE A QUIET AND INFORMAL DEMARCHE TO  
SOMEONE OF AUTHORITY IN THE UN PRESS OFFICE. THEY  
ALSO SAID THAT SUCH A DEMARCHE SHOULD BE MADE ONLY IF  
THE PERSON APPROACHED AND THE HEAD OF THE PRESS OFFICE  
WERE NOT EAST EUROPEAN. AS TO WHAT ADVICE WE SHOULD  
OFFER THE UN AS TO PROPER NOMENCLATURE, THE ONLY  
SUGGESTION WAS TO USE THE DESIGNATION "BERLIN" (I.E.,  
WITHOUT "GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC".

4. SINCE THE GERMANS WERE ADAMANT THAT "SOMETHING"  
SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THIS MATTER, WE AGREED TO REQUEST  
INSTRUCTIONS. WE HAVE SINCE DISCOVERED (AND THE  
GERMANS TELL US THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF THIS) THAT THE  
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SAME PROBLEM AROSE AT THE TIME OF THE 1974 MEETING, WHEN ANOTHER UN PRESS STATEMENT WAS ISSUED WITH AN ALMOST IDENTICAL OFFENDING PHRASE. AT THAT TIME, THE UN JOURNAL OF MAY 20, 1974, AND A UN OFFICE OF PRESS INFORMATION REPORT, STATED THAT THE APARTHEID COMMITTEE HAD MET IN "BERLIN, IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" (REF A). AT THE REQUEST OF BRACKLO OF THE FRG UN MISSION, ALLIED MISSION OFFICERS CALLED ON UN LEGAL COUNSEL SUY TO RAISE THE MATTER. SUY SAID THAT THE USE OF BERLIN (EAST) OR EAST BERLIN WAS NOT FEASIBLE. THE POSSIBILITY OF USING BERLIN (GDR) AND BERLIN (FRG) WAS DISCUSSED, WITH A FOOTNOTE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE COUNTRY REFERENCES REFERRED TO THE COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPRESENTATION ABROAD OF THE INTERESTS OF THE RESPECTIVE PARTS OF BERLIN. USBER EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE NEW PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTED SIMPLY USING "BERLIN" (REF B). THE DEPARTMENT SHARED USBER'S CONCERN AND SAID THAT "OUR GENERAL INCLINATION WOULD BE TO AVOID FURTHER ROUNDS OF DISCUSSIONS ABOUT NOMENCLATURE FOR BERLIN IN UN DOCUMENTS AND PRESS RELEASES" (REF C).

5. AS THE DEPARTMENT AND USUN ARE AWARE, THE PROBLEM OF THE DESIGNATION OF BERLIN HAS A LONG AND ACTIVE HISTORY. THE BATTLE OVER THE DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK AND OTHER UN PUBLICATIONS RAGED FROM 1972 UNTIL AT LEAST MID-1975 (REF D), DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND THE UK AND FRENCH PERMREPS TOOK THE MATTER UP WITH SYG WALDHEIM (REF E). WHILE OUR FILES ARE NOT COMPLETE, THE SAME ISSUE HAS ARISEN OVER THE YEARS IN THE ECE, ICAO, ITU, UPU, WIPO, WMO AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' YEAR. ON THE WHOLE, THE FRG AND ALLIED RECORD HAS BEEN FAIRLY

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SUCCESSFUL, ESPECIALLY IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE DESIGNATION OF WEST BERLIN WAS CONCERNED.

6. THE QUESTION OF DESIGNATION OF BERLIN WAS ALSO NOTED AS A PROBLEM IN THE REPRESENTATION STUDY WHICH WAS PREPARED BY THE BONN GROUP IN THE FALL OF 1976 AND APPROVED BY THE FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE DECEMBER QUADRIPARTITE MEETING. THE APPROVED RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT WE SHOULD DEFINE A COMMON WESTERN POSITION ON THE DESIGNATION OF BERLIN IN

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTATION. THE BONN GROUP HAS NOT YET TAKEN THIS UP AS A SPECIFIC MATTER FOR STUDY, BUT HAS HAD TO TREAT THE ISSUE ON AN AD HOC BASIS IN SEVERAL OF THE INSTANCES REFERRED TO ABOVE.

7. COMMENT: WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE REASONS BEHIND

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-----113609 281251Z /43

R 281205Z JUL 77  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 12387

THE GERMAN DESIRE THAT THE ISSUE BE RAISED AT THIS TIME WITH THE UN PRESS OFFICE. THERE IS THE DANGER THAT THE OFFENDING LANGUAGE WILL REAPPEAR IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS COMING OUT OF THE LAGOS MEETING, AND THERE IS MERIT IN TRYING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM NOW, RATHER THAN HAVING TO DECIDE WHETHER AND HOW TO MAKE A FORMAL STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THOSE DOCUMENTS. THE DISADVANTAGES OF MAKING A DEMARCHE AT THIS TIME ARE (A) THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A FORMAL POSITION TO OFFER UN OFFICIALS ON HOW BERLIN SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED, AND (B) THAT A DEMARCHE WOULD PROBABLY BE A NON-

STARTER UNLESS WE COULD OFFER TERMINOLOGY WHICH WOULD  
NOT RESULT IN COMPLAINTS FROM THE SOVIET AND EAST  
GERMAN SIDE, THUS COMPOUNDING THE PROBLEM FOR UN  
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OFFICIALS.

8. IT WOULD ALSO SEEM USELESS TO TAKE UP THE MATTER  
UNLESS THERE IS A LIKELIHOOD OF A DEGREE OF SUCCESS.  
THIS DEPENDS TO SOME EXTENT ON THE NATIONALITY AND  
PERSONALITY OF THE OFFICIALS WHO WOULD HAVE TO BE  
CONTACTED. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT'S  
DECISION ON HOW TO RESPOND TO THE GERMAN REQUEST FOR  
USUN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THAT ASPECT OF THE  
MATTER.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: USUN'S VIEWS AND DEPARTMENT'S  
GUIDANCE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**Type:** TE  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009